

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 00709 281050Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 HEW-04 IO-13 AID-05
/053 W

-----281256Z 026655 /43

R 280945Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4830

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0709

EPMO. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SWEL, SO
SUBJ: SMALLPOX EPIDEMIC

REF: STATE 094287

1.DISCUSSING DEGREE OF SMALLPOX THREAT IN SOMALIA WITH WHO MOGADISCIO

OFFICIALS, EMBASSY WAS TOLD THAT THREAT IS MORE ENDEMIC THAN
EPIDEMIC IN NATURE AND FAIRLY WELL UNDER CONTROL. MOST VICTIMS ARE
NOMADS WHO CONTRACT DISEASE IN ETHIOPIA OR ARE INFECTED BY CONTACT
WITH NOMADS. OFFICIALS BELIEVE TEAM OF 6 WHO EXPERTS PRESENTLY IN
SOMALIA CAN COPE WITH THREAT AND, INDEED, HOPE TO BE ABLE TO ERADICATE

DISEASE ALTOGETHER IN TWELVE MONTHS, PROVIDED EXPERTS HAVE ACCESS
TO TROUBLED TRANSHUMENCE AREA STRADDLING ETHIO-SOMALI BORDER. NEW
SYSTEM OF REWARDS FOR REPORTING SMALLPOX CASES (SO. SH. 200 PER
CASE) IS PROVING VALUABLE AID IN WHO EFFORT. OFFICIALS HAD NOT HEARD
OF ANY O GENEVA REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR SOMALIA.

2. EMBASSY CONCLUDES FROM ABOVE THAT OFFER OF UP TO 30 US SMALLPOX
EPIDEMIOLOGISTS WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY OR UNDERSTOOD, EITHER BY
GSDR OR WHO. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE OFFER OF LIMITED NUMBER OF PUBLIC
HEALTH ADVISORS, PERHAPS INCLUDING 1-2 SMALLPOX EPIDEMIOLOGISTS, WOULD

BE ATTRACTIVE TO GSDR. THEREFORE, AMBASSADOR WILL INCLUDE
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PUBLIC HEALTH SECTOR IN HIS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE DISCUSSIONS
WITH GSDR OFFICIALS.
LOUGHRAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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